

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ARMANDO GILL,
Petitioner,

v.

XAVIER BECERRA,
Respondent.

Case No. [19-cv-03510-WHO](#) (PR)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Dkt. Nos. 2 and 3

INTRODUCTION

Petitioner Armando Gill seeks federal habeas relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 from his state convictions and sentence. The petition for such relief states cognizable claims. Accordingly, on or before **November 25, 2019**, respondent shall file an answer or a dispositive motion in response to the habeas petition.

BACKGROUND

According to the petition, in 2013 Gill pleaded guilty in the Marin County Superior Court to charges of participating in a street gang, attempted first degree murder, making terrorist threats, and unlawful sexual intercourse. It is unclear what sentence was imposed. Gill says it was life with the possibility of parole, but CDCR documents attached to the petition state it was 17 years to life. (Pet., Dkt No. 1 at 1, 20.) Gill's attempts to overturn his convictions in state court were unsuccessful. This federal habeas petition followed.

DISCUSSION

This Court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a). A district court considering an application for a writ of habeas corpus shall “award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Summary dismissal is appropriate only where the allegations in the petition are vague or conclusory, palpably incredible, or patently frivolous or false. *See Hendricks v. Vasquez*, 908 F.2d 490, 491 (9th Cir. 1990).

As grounds for federal habeas relief, Gill alleges (i) his sentence was illegally enhanced; (ii) he is being denied time credits; and (iii) defense counsel rendered ineffective assistance. When liberally construed, these allegations state claims for relief.

MOTIONS

Gill’s motion for an evidentiary hearing is DENIED as premature. (Dkt. No. 3.) It is far too early in this litigation to decide whether an evidentiary hearing is warranted.

Gill’s motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* is GRANTED. (Dkt. No. 2.)

CONCLUSION

1. The Clerk shall mail a copy of this order, the petition and all attachments thereto, on respondent and respondent’s counsel, the Attorney General for the State of California. The Clerk shall also mail a copy of this order on petitioner.

2. On or before **November 25, 2019**, respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted based on petitioner’s cognizable claims. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that previously have been transcribed and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

3. If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the Court and serving it on respondent's counsel within thirty (30) days of the date the answer is filed.

4. In lieu of an answer, respondent may file, on or before **November 25, 2019**, a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion, petitioner shall file with the Court and serve on respondent an opposition or statement of non-opposition within thirty (30) days of the date the motion is filed, and respondent shall file with the Court and serve on petitioner a reply within fifteen (15) days of the date any opposition is filed.

5. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the Court must be served on respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's counsel.

6. It is petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner must keep the Court and respondent informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

7. Upon a showing of good cause, requests for a reasonable extension of time will be granted provided they are filed on or before the deadline they seek to extend.

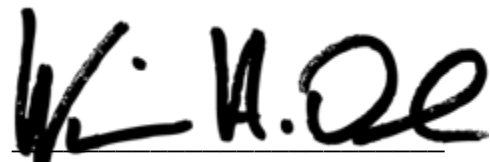
8. Gill's motion for an evidentiary hearing is DENIED as premature. (Dkt. No. 3.)

9. Gill's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* is GRANTED. (Dkt. No. 2.)

10. The Clerk shall terminate all pending motions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 23, 2019


WILLIAM H. ORRICK
United States District Judge